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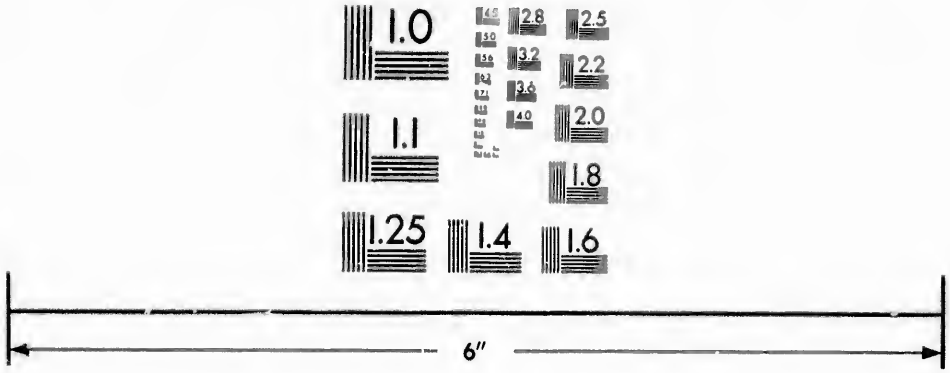

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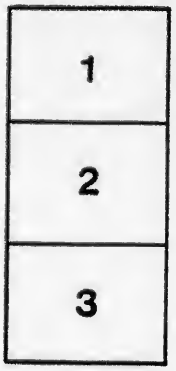
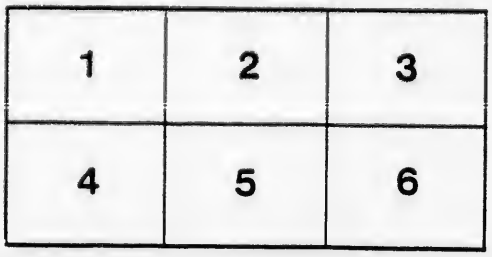
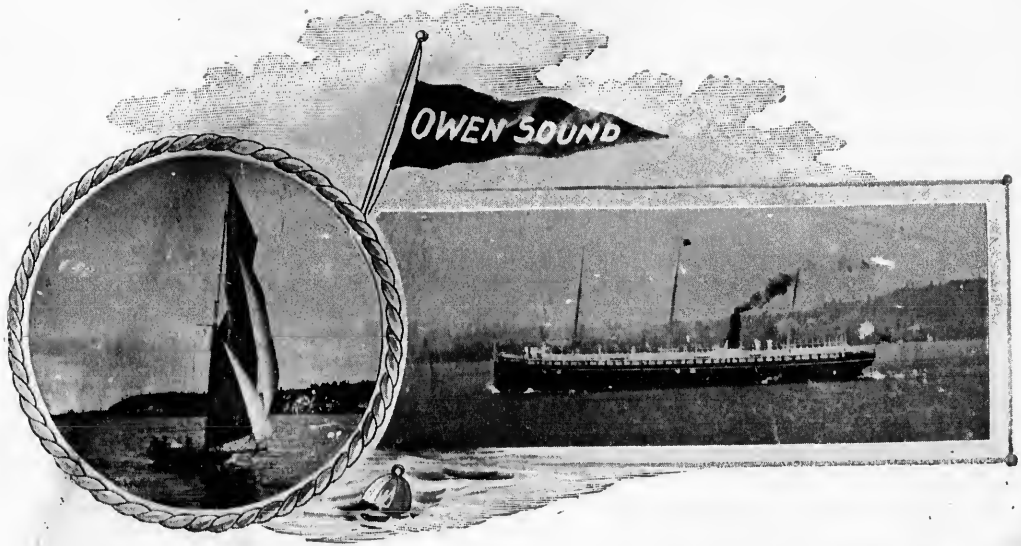






Souvenir

1897

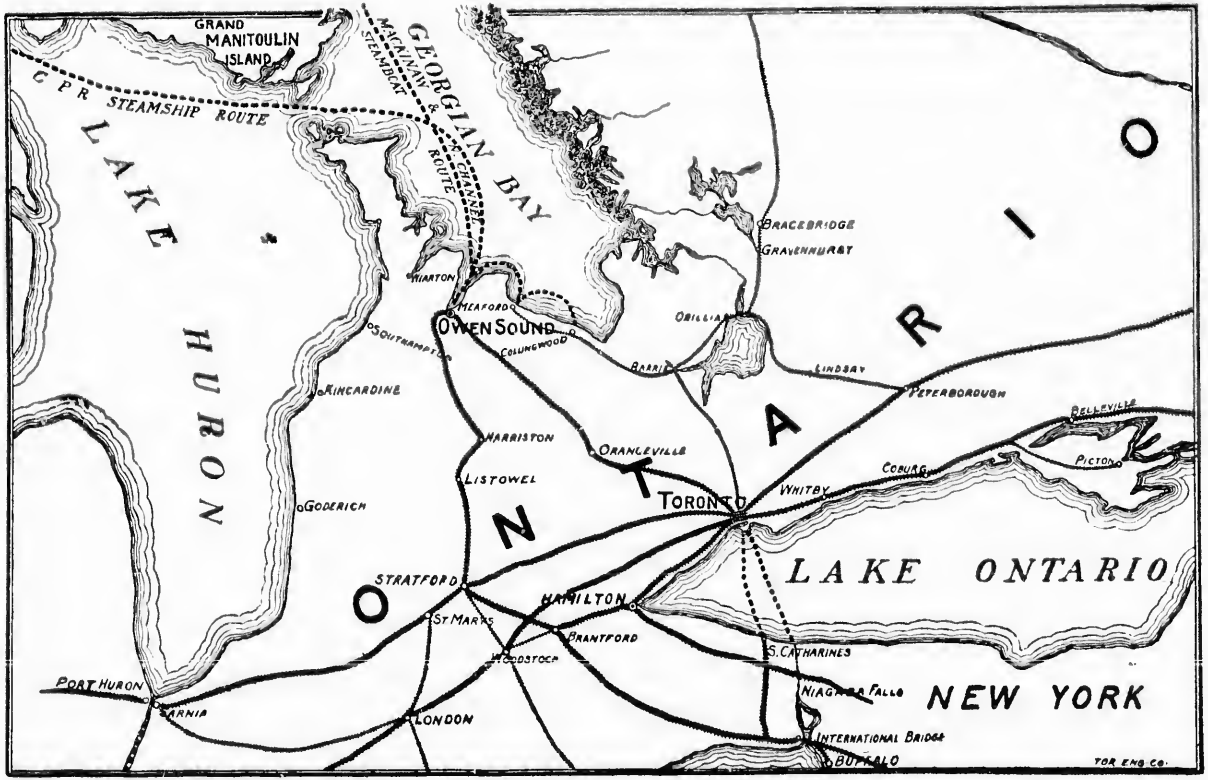
Some Views

IN AND AROUND
THE TOWN OF

Owen Sound

THE CAPITAL OF THE COUNTY OF GREY, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, DOMINION OF CANADA, WITH A SHORT WRITE-UP OF THE MANY ADVANTAGES TO BE DERIVED THROUGH LIVING, AND DOING BUSINESS, THERE—ITS PAST, PRESENT, AND BRIGHT FUTURE XXXX

OWEN SOUND
PRESS OF JNO. RUTHERFORD'S SONS
1897


GRAND MANITOULIN ISLAND
G P R STEAMSHIP ROUTE
MACKINAW & CHICAGO STEAMBOAT ROUTE
GEORGIAN BAY
LAKE HURON
ONTARIO
LAKE ONTARIO
NEW YORK
BRACEBRIDGE
GRAVENHURST
WIARTON
MEAFORD
OWEN SOUND
SOUTHAMPTON
COLLINGWOOD
ORILLIA
BARRIE
LINDSAY
PETERBOROUGH
KINCARDINE
HARRISTON
ORANGEVILLE
BELLEVILLE
PICTON
COBURG
LISTOWEL
GODERICH
TORONTO
WHITBY
STRATFORD
HAMILTON
ST MARYS
BRANTFORD
WOODSTOCK
S. CATHARINES
NIAGARA FALLS
PORT HURON
SARNIA
LONDON
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE
BUFFALO
TOR. ENG. CO.

POULETT ST. NORTH EAST SIDE.

POULETT ST. LOOKING SOUTH.

POULETT ST. LOOKING NORTH.

POULETT ST. SOUTH WEST SIDE.

The Town of Owen Sound

IN a young country like Canada, the development of commerce is rapid, and thriving communities spring up where but a few short years before the primeval forest spread its shade, or the virgin prairie lay clothed in its natural bloom. The whole continent of America is dotted with teeming cities, thriving towns, and well settled agricultural communities, that are essentially the products of the nineteenth century, and reflect in their progressiveness and enterprise the spirit of this practical, bustling, inventive age. It is not long since the Province of Ontario was an unpenetrated wilderness. Even the oldest and best settled portions can date back no further than the end of the last century. Yet, compared with these, the town of Owen Sound and the districts surrounding

it are of very recent origin. As one scans the views shown in this little booklet, giving every evidence as they do of wealth, progress, and a high degree of culture and civilization, one feels it almost impossible to believe that all this is the product of little more than fifty years of labor. Where now the substantial stores, the huge factories, the elegant churches and the beautiful schools of Owen Sound raise aloft their splendid proportions, dismal swamps and dark forests but five decades since stretched in gloomy monotony, and the red man roved with bow and arrow in search of game, or sought with death-dealing tomahawk the life-blood of his enemy.

* * * *

Early Settlement

It was early in the forties that the rich farming lands of what are now the prosperous townships of Derby and Sydenham were first thrown open for settlement, having been surveyed for the Government by the late Charles Rankin. From that time forward settlers continued to arrive, slowly at first, then more and more numerously, in this wild northern country, which was shut off from all communication with the highways of commerce and the centres of civilization. Of

POULETT ST. LOOKING SOUTH.
EAST. SIDE.
POULETT ST. LOOKING SOUTH.
WEST. SIDE.
UNION ST. EAST.

the toils and hardships of those early pioneers it is unnecessary here to speak at any length. Slowly they cleared away the growths of centuries; toilsomely they sowed and reaped the first meagre harvests of their little clearings; bravely they faced the dangers and privations of life in the backwoods; nobly and well they performed every duty in their path. All honor to them! The task was gigantic, but they brought to it honest hearts, active minds and strong hands. From each of the British Isles came sturdy, honest worth and unsullied virtue, to lay the foundations of the new Dominion, and the strength, grace and beauty of thistle, rose and shamrock were combined as a chaplet for Young Canada's brow.

The purpose of this booklet is not, however, to give an account of Owen Sound's history, but rather to sketch its present prosperity and indicate its bright prospects; and the settlement of this region is referred to merely in order to give the reader a true conception of the mighty strides that have marked the progress of our town and county.

Incorporation

Until 1856 Owen Sound was known as the village of Sydenham, having been named after Lord Sydenham, one of the early governors of Canada. The previous year application had been made for a special Act of Incorporation as a town, and notwithstanding that the population was under the statutory requirement by several hundreds, the Act was obtained. The first town council was elected in January, 1857. From that date to the present time Owen Sound has maintained a record as one of the most progressive towns in the Province of Ontario; and it is generally admitted throughout Canada to-day that no place has brighter prospects. There are many reasons for this, and it will be one of the main objects of these pages to describe the advantages, natural and acquired, which give to Owen Sound its pre-eminence, and justify the hopes entertained for its future.

Present Condition

First, a word as to the present condition of the town may be appropriate. Owen Sound is the county town of the large and wealthy County of Grey, and the metropolis and recognized centre of trade for the

DIVISION ST. LOOKING EAST.

WATER ST. LOOKING NORTH.

UNION ST. LOOKING EAST.

BAKER ST. NORTH SIDE.

BAKER ST. LOOKING EAST.

entire Georgian Bay district. The total value of assessed property is $2,959,693; and the population, according to the 1897 assessment, is 7800, or, counting the western suburb of Brooke, about 8500. Owen Sound does a large mercantile business with the surrounding country. Its markets are the centre for the extensive trade in live stock, grain, dairy produce, and general agricultural products, of a number of rich and populous townships. Its merchants supply the people of the farming community with the manufactured goods they require, and this trade alone is sufficient to support a prosperous town. But in addition to this we have several extensive manufactories, employing a large number of skilled mechanics and giving support to their families, besides an immense shipping trade during the season of navigation.

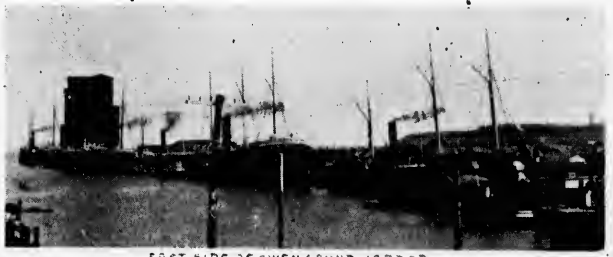
* * * *

Manufacturing Progress

Referring to manufactures, it is of interest to note that, according to Census Bulletin No. 12, this town has made gigantic strides in its manufacturing interests. In 1881 Owen Sound manufactured to the extent of $420,249; in 1891 the figure had risen to $1,529,564,

or nearly quadrupled. This shows a rate of increase far in excess of most places in the Dominion; and inasmuch as the figures for 1891 were compiled before the advent of the North American Bent Chair Co., one of the largest manufacturing concerns in Ontario, it is natural to suppose that the next census (1901) will show a still greater leap forward on the part of this town. Yet, extensive as our manufactures now are, Owen Sound has not nearly as many factories as her unequalled position as a shipping point should have entitled her to, and there is room for unlimited development along this line.

Shipping As for the shipping, it will suffice here to say that notwithstanding the depressed condition of the carrying trade for some years back, the Canadian Pacific Railway's returns show a large increase in the amount of freight handled by their steamers last year (1896) over previous seasons. The prospects for Owen Sound's shipping interests are at present of the brightest character, owing to increased facilities for the handling of grain, flour, etc., now being furnished, and the harbor works under way and in contemplation.



EAST SIDE OF OWEN SOUND HARBOR.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY YARD.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY YARD.

As a Railway Centre and Distributing Point

No town in Ontario has a more advantageous location than Owen Sound. Situated on the highway of traffic from ocean to ocean over the great Canadian Pacific Railway, and at the very gateway to the vast mining and grain-raising regions of Canada, Owen Sound might well inspire the envy of other places, had she only these advantages as a distributing centre to rely upon. But the advent of the Grand Trunk Railway in 1894 gave the town direct communication with the whole western peninsula of Ontario, and all the benefits accruing from connection with the two great competing lines of Canadian railway. A glance at the accompanying map will afford to the reader an ocular demonstration of the unique and commanding position of Owen Sound in this respect. Only one link remains to be supplied in order to make this town the great railway centre, which it is obviously destined to become, and that is the extension of the Grand Trunk line from Meaford on the east. This short branch, which is certain to be built at an early date in response to the ever growing demands of trade, will give Owen Sound railway connection from every side, and must contribute materially to the

building up of a large and prosperous city. Owen Sound is now the only town on the Georgian Bay having two lines of railway, and her manifest destiny is to continue to draw to herself other lines, till she becomes the chief distributing point north of Toronto.

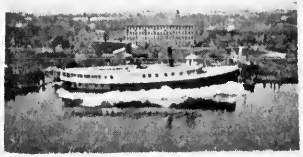
Steamship Lines

Running in connection with the railways are a number of steamship lines, which afford frequent and rapid transit for both freight and passengers between Owen Sound and other points on the northern lakes. First of these in importance is the Canadian Pacific Steamship Line, whose three magnificent steel steamers, Alberta, Athabasca and Manitoba, are acknowledged to be unsurpassed on fresh waters. The two former were built in Glasgow, and are 270 feet long, with a registered tonnage of 2300 tons. The last named is a product of Owen Sound's ship yards, and is 305 feet long, with a registered tonnage of 2600 tons. These steamers ply between Owen Sound and Fort William thrice weekly, carrying westward the merchandise that supplies the farmers, mechanics and miners of prairie and mountain, and bringing back from the golden west the grain, flour and other products of that region.

G.N.T.Co. SS "MAJESTIC"

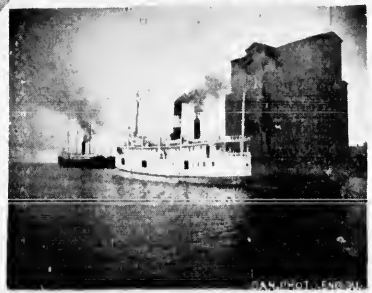
SS. "JOE MILTON"

N.S.N.Co. S.S. "COLLINGWOOD"



G.N.T.Co. S.S. "PACIFIC"

N.S.N.Co. S.S. "MIDLAND"



G.N.T.Co. S.S. ATLANTIC

MAITLAND RIXON & CO. SAW MILL

HARRISON'S WOOD PLANING MILLS

J. McLAUCHLAN & SONS
MANUFACTURERS.

NORTH AMERICAN BENT CHAIR COMPANY.

THE WM KENNEDY & SONS, LIMITED

Also running in connection with the C.P.R. is the new Gladstone line, established only this season, and as yet but an earnest of greater things in store. One of the steamers of this line, the Alice Stafford, is shown in the accompanying views of the harbor. She makes trips twice weekly between Gladstone, Mich., and Owen Sound, with an occasional trip from Chicago, and carries to this port flour, grain, sugar, glucose, meal, etc., from the western States, with general merchandise, hides from South America, etc., for her return cargoes. Other vessels, it is expected, will shortly be placed upon this route, and doubtless an immense trade is awaiting development.

The steamers of the White and Black lines (Great Northern Transit Co. and North Shore Navigation Co. respectively) ply to Manitoulin and North Shore ports, as far as the Soo, making almost daily trips. In the months of July and August they do a large tourist traffic between this port and the Island of Mackinac.

All the above mentioned vessels are palatial steamers, speedy, strong and seaworthy, trim and beautiful, as their pictures show; and in addition well officered and well manned. Many of them were built in Owen Sound. There is also a large trade in and out of this port by tramp vessels, which leave a great deal of money in town.

New Elevators and Flour Sheds

The extent of the shipping interests of Owen Sound can be fairly judged from the accompanying illustrations, which show scenes that would be no discredit to the greatest ports in the world. Yet even more splendid things are in store. The C.P.R. has this year completed additional flour sheds, aggregating 990 feet long by from 40 to 50 feet deep. That company has also in course of erection an elevator of 800,000 bushels capacity, on the site marked with a cross on the large picture of the town. This elevator, together with the one now standing, will give a capacity for the storage of 1,050,000 bushels of grain. Satisfactory arrangements have also been concluded with the G.T.R. for the erection by a joint stock company of an elevator of 500,000 bushels capacity on the west side of the river—the railway company guaranteeing a traffic of 1,500,000 bushels per year through the same. The completion of these elevators will make Owen Sound one of the chief points for the storage of grain on the lakes. A large number of vessels will be brought annually to Owen Sound, and great benefit must be derived by the business men of the town as a result.

Owen Sound

Ontario's Great Lake P[illegible]t and Railway Centre: the natural outlet to the seabo
American Northwests, Chicago, Gladstone, Sault Ste. Marie, Duluth, Fort William
Has the most magnificent harbor and finest line of steel st

Owen Sound

natural outlet to the seaboard for all traffic to and from th Canadian and
Marie, Duluth, Fort William, and all Lake Superior and Lake Michigan Ports.
or and finest line of steel steamships on the Great Lakes.

The Harbor

The harbor of Owen Sound is commodious, safe, and capable of being dredged to any required depth. Situated at the end of an arm of the Georgian Bay, twenty miles in length, it is protected in all weather, and shipping is absolutely safe from harm when once in the harbor of Owen Sound. Another great advantage is that the harbor, though well protected, is extremely easy of access, the sound being deep, straight, and free of rocks, islands or dangerous shoals.

Dry-dock Accommodation

Though Owen Sound has at present dry-dock accommodation for all but the largest class of vessels, it is generally recognized that this port requires a graving dock of substantial build and large proportions; and it is altogether likely that, with assistance from the Dominion government, one will be constructed ere long in the interests of Canadian shipping. This may reasonably be expected in fulfilment of the policy which dictated the building of the Canadian Sault canal, and which aims to make Canada independent of the American republic in all matters affecting the traffic of the lakes.

The government has undertaken extensive improvements of the harbor of Owen Sound. These improvements are now under way, and when completed will add greatly to its commodiousness and safety.

Manufacturing Interests

Recognizing the unequalled shipping facilities of Owen Sound, some of the largest manufacturing firms in the Dominion of Canada have located here. The buildings of a few of these are pictured in the accompanying illustrations. The following are among the most important manufacturers in Owen Sound:

North American Bent Chair Co.—various kinds of chairs.

James McLauchlan & Sons—biscuits and confectionery.

The Wm. Kennedy & Sons (Limited)—turbine water wheels, machinery for water power purposes, propeller wheels.

John Harrison lumber, sash and doors, butchers' skewers.

Maitland, Rixon & Co. lumber.

The Eaton Bros. Brewing Co. (Limited)—ale, porter and malt.

Taylor & Pringle—ginger ale, soft drinks, vinegar and pickles.

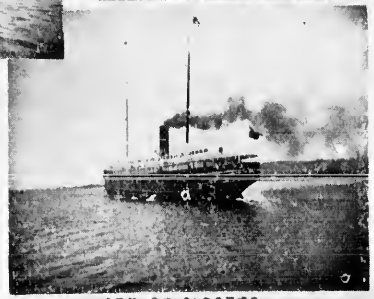
John Wright & Sons· flour and oatmeal.

STR ALICE STAFFORD, GLADSTONE LINE

DGS PETREL.

C.P.R. S.S. MANITOBA.

C.P.R. S.S ATHABASCA.



C.P.R. S.S. ALBERTA.

George McQuay—leather.

Lloyd & Scully—produce merchants.

Mrs. Sarah Harrison—flour, blankets and woolen goods.

W. A. Inglis—flour.

Pickard & Rowan—lumber.

J. Benner & Sons—blankets and woolen goods.

Geo. Corbet & Sons—engines and boilers.

G. S. Schmidt & Co.—wire mattresses.

Oliver C. Brown—lime.

White Bros.—brick.

Owen Sound Portland Cement Co. (Limited)—portland cement, "Sampson" brand.

Owen Sound Stone Co. (Limited)—stone for bridges and heavy masonry.

Owen Sound Oil Works—coal oil and machine oils.

W. Schwan—lager beer.

T. B. Dowsley—gears and carriages.

W. A. McClean & Co.—cured pork.

Geo. C. Brignell—cured pork.

Wm. Dunn—boats.

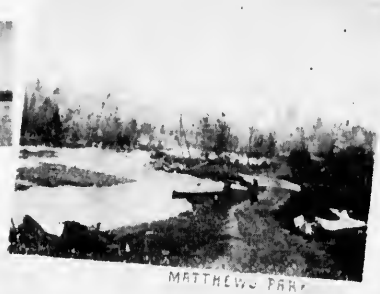
Abbey Bros.—boats.
J. S. Johns—barrels.
D. Chalmers—building stone.
John Lemon—pottery.
Owen Sound Soap Co.—soap.
Horning & Branscombe—pottery.

An important industry which has been talked of for Owen Sound for a considerable length of time, is the manufacturing of beet root sugar. There is now a very fair prospect that a factory will shortly be built for this purpose.

Wooden Manufactures

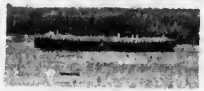
Owen Sound is well adapted for almost all kinds of manufacturing industries, but particularly for those that use wood, either hard or soft, as their raw material. There is an abundance of fine timber within a short distance of Owen Sound, and, with cheap transportation, it can be obtained at a much smaller cost than in older portions of the Province. This will continue to be the case, because the supply of timber about the Georgian Bay is practically inexhaustible, and logs can always be towed to Owen Sound at a very small outlay.

QUEEN'S PARK.



MATTHEWS PARK

QUEENS PARK



BAY ST. NORTH

MURDOCK ST. NORTH.

Fire Protection, etc.

The town is well protected from fire, there being a large volunteer fire brigade, a system of electric alarm operated in connection with the telephone plant, and one of the best waterworks systems in the Dominion; besides a steam fire engine, with a complete outfit of hose, a hook and ladder waggon, and other fire-fighting apparatus.

Building materials—lumber, stone and brick—are all produced within the town, and are remarkably cheap.

Owen Sound enjoys a good banking service, having, in addition to several private banks, branches of three of the leading chartered banks of Canada—the Molsons, Merchants, and Bank of Hamilton.

Owen Sound's Homes

One of the most striking features of Owen Sound is its beautiful homes. Attracted by the superb situation of the town, its many beauties, and its advantages as an educational centre, persons possessed of wealth and leisure, who have made their money here or elsewhere, have chosen to locate their homes in Owen Sound, and have built here many substantial and beautiful residences.

The great majority of the streets are well shaded with splendid trees. The town is well lighted, and by night as well as by day presents an attractive appearance.

Beauty and Healthfulness

It is no wonder that Owen Sound, in its residential portions, contains so many proofs of its own attractiveness as a home centre. In the first place it may be stated without fear of contradiction that its natural situation is one of the most charming imaginable. On three sides—south, east and west—arise mighty limestone cliffs, above green terraces of hills, banked by thick growths of beech and maple. To the north is the picturesque bay, stretching away to the outer waters of the blue Georgian. Through the valley run two small but beautiful rivers, the Sydenham and Pottawattamie. By its favorable situation, Owen Sound is sheltered from storms, and in summer is cooled by the invigorating breezes from Georgian Bay. The prevailing winds are from the west and north-west, and having crossed Lakes Superior and Huron, a stretch of 400 miles of water, are laden with life-giving ozone from the pure and bracing

MURDOCK ST., SOUTH

FROST ST., EAST.

JACKSON ST.

LA MARCHAND PLACE

BARING ST. W

atmosphere of the regions they have traversed. For this reason Owen Sound and vicinity are noted for their healthfulness. The water is as good as any in Canada. It gushes in crystalline springs, practically inexhaustible in their capacity, from the rocks to the south of the town, and a drink of it is a treat which those accustomed to inferior drinking water can hardly imagine. The corporation owns the waterworks system, and an abundant supply for domestic purposes is to be had at a nominal rate.

The figures compiled by the government meteorological observer, and based on observations extending over a period of years, show what a delightfully cool and equable climate this section is blessed with. The average mid-day temperature for the months of June, July, August and September is between 65 and 77 degrees, while the nights generally are cool, the average midnight temperature for the same months being 51 degrees.

Scenery and Points of Interest

The scenery about the entire Sydenham valley is most beautiful. Waterfalls abound, all within easy distance of the town, and the pictures of these beauty spots, shown in the accompanying pages, reveal

something of the charm of Owen Sound's natural surroundings. Inglis' Falls is particularly noted for its picturesque grandeur. In all directions extend beautiful drives, which are the delight of horseman, bicyclist or pedestrian. The parks are large, numerous, and planted with a profusion of trees. The facilities for both summer and winter sports are admirable. For the former, ample accommodation is afforded in a public pleasure ground of 50 acres, with a first-class half-mile race track. Hockey and skating are indulged in on the fine rink of the Owen Sound Rink Co., the largest enclosed rink in Canada; and curling is carried on in the commodious rink belonging to the Owen Sound Curling Club. During the past winter the town also enjoyed the advantage of a large open-air rink.

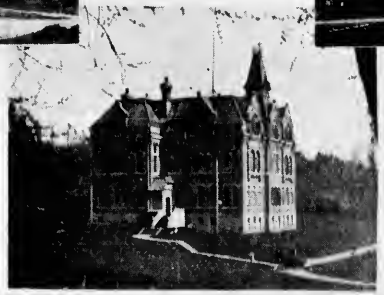
Boating Facilities, Fishing, Hunting, etc.

So far as boating is concerned, no town could possibly be more favorably situated. With two rivers, and a bay noted for its safety, the lover of the water here finds ample opportunity to indulge his taste. Boats are for hire at cheap rates; and sailing, rowing and canoeing, are much indulged in.

There is good trout fishing within easy distance of the town. In season, trolling for salmon trout in the bay is prime sport. Deer hunting is carried on every fall on the Bruce peninsula, the grounds being easily reached from Owen Sound

ST. MARYS SCHOOL.

HILL ST. SCHOOL.



COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE.

BOYD ST. SCHOOL.

WEST ST. SCHOOL.

Churches, Schools, Hospital, etc.

The churches of Owen Sound are numerous, representing the Episcopal, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Disciples, and Roman Catholic denominations. There is a progressive Y. M. C. A. Architecturally both the churches and schools, as the illustrations show, are imposing. The public schools are in a very high state of efficiency, and the Collegiate Institute is one of the foremost in the Province. The Roman Catholic separate school is conducted by the Sisters of St. Joseph, who have made a name as enthusiastic and competent teachers. There is also in the town an efficient business college. The public library contains at present about 4,500 volumes, which number is being constantly increased.

One of the best institutions of its kind in Ontario is the Owen Sound General and Marine Hospital, which is in charge of a lady superintendent and a staff of trained nurses. The doctors of the town give medical attendance free of charge to poor patients.

Hotels and Stores

Another feature of Owen Sound is its ample hotel accommodation. In this respect the town is certainly unequalled, excepting by the largest cities. The majority of the hotels occupy large, substantial buildings, and are excellently managed. At least two of them enjoy a Provincial reputation. The rates are from $1.00 to $2.00 per day, according to accommodation, with special rates for families and tourists.

Owen Sound is noted for its large and well kept stores, in which almost every necessary and luxury can be obtained.

In the preceding pages the writer has attempted to set before the public the Town of Owen Sound as it is to-day, with its brief but stirring record of growth and development; its many advantages commercially over the average Ontario town; its beauties, natural and artificial; the flourishing condition of its public institutions; the prosperity of its chief business houses, and its more than brilliant prospects for a future that shall fulfill the promise of the past. But in the limited space available it has been impossible to do more than merely touch upon the various topics dealt with, and if this book should fall into the hands of any who have never visited the town of Owen Sound, and who are interested in it only from what is here presented, to such an invitation is extended to come and see for themselves.

Anyone interested in Owen Sound can obtain further information by writing to Mr. T. I. Thomson, Mayor; Mr. B. Allen, President of the Board of Trade; or Mr. Thomas Gordon, Town Clerk.

DISCIPLES CHURCH

BAPTIST CHURCH.

WEST ST. METHODIST CHURCH.

ST. GEORGES CHURCH.

KNOX CHURCH

ST. MARYS CHURCH.

DIVISION ST. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

SCROPE ST. METHODIST CHURCH

EXHIBITION BUILDING.

FAIR GROUNDS.

BATTERY.

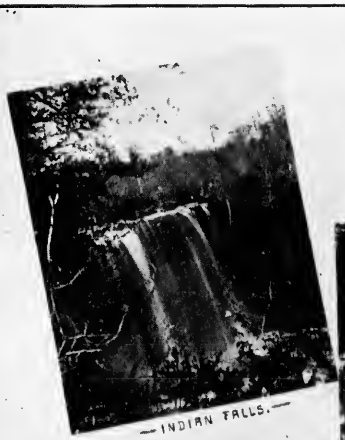
GENERAL & MARINE HOSPITAL.

MARKET.

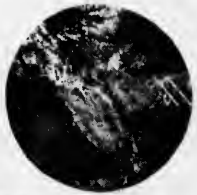
POST OFFICE.

COUNTY BUILDINGS.

FIRE HALL.



—INDIAN FALLS.—



—EATON'S FALLS.—

—INGLIS FALLS.—

JONES FALLS.—

—RAPIDS ON SYDENHAM.—

—INGLIS FALLS WINTER.—